(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 has been extended throughout the country and the provisions of the Act are reportedly implemented by all the State Governments and Union Territories. Vigilance Committees as per Section 13 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 have reportedly been constituted at District and Sub-Divisional levels in all the States except the State of Manipur. As there is no incidence of bonded labour in the State of Manipur, the State Government does not consider necessary to constitute the Vigilance Committees.

New Special Economic Zones

314. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has made announcement recently, to the fact that the proposed new special economic zones would be exempted from making contributions to Provident Fund and State Insurance Schemes to help exporters to compete in the international market.

(b) if so, the details thereof and labour unions' reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to reconcile different views in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that in respect of Special Economic Zones, the State Government may apply for exemption; to the Central Government under Section 16(2) of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, from the applicability of the provisions of the Act to SEZ for 5 years. The decision shall be taken on a case-to-case basis.

In respect of the ESI Act 1948, the State Government, being the appropriate Government may take a decision as per the powers provided under the Act.

Labour reforms

315. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring out a comprehensive labour reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy.Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness and employment generation and to update the provisions of labour laws, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations and steps initiated accordingly. Thus, amendments in certain labour legislations viz. the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Cine Workers' Workers Fund Act, 1981 were recently carried out. The Tea District Emigrant Labour (Repeal) Act, 1970 and the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Act, 1955, which had become outdated, have been repealed.

Meanwhile, the Second National Labour Commission has submitted its report to the Government. The Commission has made a wide ranging recommendations on various facets of labour viz. review of laws, social security, women & child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganised sector etc. The Ministry has held consultations and interactions with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were also discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002 and in a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers held on 7-8 November, 2002, also in a Tripartite Committee meeting held on 18–19 February, 2003 and in the Consultative Committee Meetings of the Ministry of Labour held on 07-02-2003 and 30.04.2003. Lately, the recommendations have again been discussed in the 39th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 16-18 October, 2003. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission as well as to concretise the views of the Government. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify the time limit.

Immigration to developed countries

316. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing immigrants from India to the developed countries;